

Camp of the 114th Regt. New York Vols.
near Washington D.C. May 24th 1865

Dear Mother,

Your letter of the 22nd was rec'd with great pleasure, and perused this afternoon, and was glad to hear that you were all well.

I went down to see Doctor yesterday but d[torn] find him there, they told me he had gone [torn] Wisconsin with a lot of sick and wounde[torn] that were transferred to their own State, and that he would not be back before the first of June. I was down there and stayed all night with him last week.

The great Review is over with, we were reviewed yesterday. I did not have to go out on it, but went down to get a sight at the President and General Grant, but here was such an awful crowd that I could not get near enough to get a very good view of them, but made out to get near enough, after getting pretty effectually *jamed*, and toes tread *uppon*, to say that I had seen the President and Lt. Gen. I did not care a snap to see the troops, would not go a half mile to see all the soldiers in America.

But of course to any body that never saw an army together it would be quite a sight, there was an immense number of people from the North here, there were some from Bookfield here and Norwich also. Clark Nash [torn] from Hubbardsville stayed here in our camp [torn] last night, the Hotels in they city were all crowded and a great many of them had to go stay in the camp and take soldiers fair, which is very good here for we have large tents and could accommodate them very well.

I suppose you are expecting us home before a great while. We are making *preperations* to be mustered but as soon as we get the order, there is an order from the War Department that all troops whose term of service expires before the first of October will be mustered out immediately, our time is out the 3rd of September.

We probably will be sent to Elmira or Albany before we are discharged, but the Officers of the Regt. are trying to have us mustered out in Norwich, our original place of *rendesvouse* but I hope they will not succeed for I think it will take longer and then I will be some ways from home and a poor road to[torn]ell. The Colonel has gone now, to the ci[torn] see Govonor[sic]

Fenton, who is at Willc[torn] about it, but I don't care much if [torn] will only start us toward home right away. Well, I will not write any more at present, tell Harrison to write to me as soon as he gets back from Leonardsville.

Give my love to all. I remain your Affectionate Son,

John F. Brand

P.S.

I forgot to tell you that Jerry's wife was here, she has been here about two weeks, they are boarding at a private house near our camp, she comes over most every day, they seem to enjoy themselves first rate. I have spoken with her but once or twice since she has been here.

J. F. Brand

Excuse this small envelope for I have no other.